



From left: John Spencer, ATF; Ray Fidone, project coordinator; and Mike Behm, former coordinator, are honored for their work in Project Safe Neighborhoods by U.S. Attorney Mike Heavican.

Outstanding Law Enforcement Officials Honored

By Lorraine Boyd
The Daily Record

The Nebraska Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) held their 17th annual conference this week in Kearney, with more than 260 local, state and federal law enforcement officials and prosecutors in attendance.

The conference was designed to bring instruction to administrative and mid-management officials on the latest topics impacting the criminal justice system. The conference is hosted annually by the United States Attorney's Office, Nebraska County Attorneys Association and the Nebraska Sheriffs Association.

This year's topics included child abuse investigations, law enforcement forensic issues, Supreme Court updates, trial techniques, identity theft, search

and seizure issues for the law enforcement administrator, Midwest drug trends and law enforcement, and school safety technology.

Awards were presented during the evening banquet by United States Attorney Mike Heavican. The awards are presented annually to county, city, state and federal officials. Included this year was an award for the outstanding effort in Nebraska's gun violence initiative, Project Safe Neighborhoods. Several men and women engaged in the comprehensive statewide initiative to reduce gun violence were honored. Their efforts featured proactive investigations, aggressive prosecutions, community engagement and media outreach.

Other awards went to Deb Fenton of Omaha; Sgt. Jeff Gade of the Lincoln Police Department; Capt. Rodger Wil-

liams, Hall County Sheriff's Office; Nancy Martinez, State HIDTA coordinator; Nancy Vandenberg, Nebraska State Patrol; Max Kelch, Otoe County Attorney; and Lt. Adam Kyle, Omaha Police Department, SA James Slosson, ATF, SA Matt Larson, FBI and Robert Francis Cryne, U.S. Attorney's Office, for their work in several high profile narcotics cases in Omaha.

Fenton was recognized for her work in the area of forensic computer analysis for the FBI. She has been instrumental in providing examination on over 400 cases including white collar crime, bombings, terrorism and child pornography.

Gade was nominated for his untiring efforts in the area of child abuse, domestic violence, truancy and working with at-risk children.

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